

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-05 /086 W

----- 036868

R 121015Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1192

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OFIRM, CSCM GE

SUBJECT: MORE FROM THE GDR ON CSCE

REF: BERLIN 6123

1. GDR OFFICIAL AND PRESS COMMENTARY ON CSCE CONTINUED
UNABATED THROUGH THE WEEK OF AUGUST 4 CAPPED BY A JOINT
DECLARATION OF THE POLITBURO, COUNCIL OF STATE AND COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS ON THE RESULTS OF HELSINKI PUBLISHED AUGUST 8
IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) AND AN ND INTERVIEW WITH SED
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FIRST SECRETARY ERICH HONECKER AUGUST 6 ENTITLED "WE AND

HELSINKI."

2. BOTH STATEMENTS RITUALLY LAID OUT THE GDR POSITION THAT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IS BASED ABOVE ALL ON SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, SPECIFICALLY THE INVIOABILITY OF BORDERS, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SOVEREIGN EQUALITY, OBSERVANCE OF INTERNAL LAW, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTEJNAL AFFAIRS. WHILE THE POLITBURO DOCUMENT STATED THAT HELSINKI HAD CREATED NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE DETENTE "IRREVERSIBLE" AND HAD MADE POSSIBLE "NEW IMPULSES" TO REDUCE TENSIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, HONECKER MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS INTERVIEW THAT PROGRESS IN HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS WOULD COME ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT CSCE PRINCIPLES AFFECTING SECURITY WERE RESPECTED.

3. A SIZEABLE PORTION OF THE HONECKER INTERVIEW WAS DEVOTED TO HONECKER'S TALKS WITH SCHMIDT IN HELSINKI, A SUBJECT OF NATURAL INTEREST TO THE EAST GERMAN POPULATION SINCE, AMONG OTHER REASONS, A MAJOR SHARE OF GDR HUMANITARIAN CASES INVOLVE THE FRG. OBSERVING THAT FRG-GDR RELATIONS COULD MOVE FORWARD "WITH ENERGY AND AT THE SAME TIME WITHOUT HASTE" ONLY IF "SETBACKS" TO DETENTE WERE AVOIDED, HONECKER SINGLED OUT TWO AREAS WHERE PROBLEMS COULD ARISE: IN THE "CONTINUING INTERFERENCE" BY FRG MASS MEDIA IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GDR; AND IN ANY ATTEMPT TO VIOLATE THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON "WEST BERLIN," A DOCUMENT WHICH, ACCORDING TO HONECKER, THE GDR HAD HELPED TO CREATE AND ONE WHOSE DURABILITY SHOULD NOT BE TESTED, A POINT ON WHICH HONECKER AND SCHMIDT HAD AGREED. HONECKER THUS RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT SETBACKS TO DETENTE AND RESULTING THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COULD COME IN THE AREAS NOTED ABOVE AND IMPLIED THAT GDR COMPLIANCE ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WOULD LARGELY BE A FUNCTION OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN FRG-GDR RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: BOTH THE POLITBURO DECLARATION AND THE HONECKER INTERVIEW SEEM INTENDED TO QUELL ANY NASCENT EXPECTATIONS AMONG THE EAST GERMAN POPULATION THAT AN IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTACT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE WEST IS IN THE OFFING, EITHER IN THE FORM OF RELAXED CENSORSHIP LAWS - HENCE THE MENTION OF THE FRG MEDIA - OR IN A MORE RELAXED TRAVEL POLICY.

5. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL FRG JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE RECENTLY SAMPLED PUBLIC OPINION AMONG EAST BERLIN RESIDENTS ON THE RESULTS OF HELSINKI FOR SHOWING ON FRG TELEVISION, OVER TWO THIRDS OF THOSE INTERVIEWED MENTIONED FAMILY

REUNIFICATION AND TRAVEL TO THE WEST AS PRIME CONCERNS
WHILE ONLY TWENTY PERCENT CAME FORH WITH THE SED LINE
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURE BORDERS AND INTERNAL
SOVEREIGNTY.GROVE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN06145
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750277-1210
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750858/aaaabypy.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BERLIN 6123
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE FROM THE GDR ON CSCE
TAGS: MARR, GC, CSCE, (HONECKER, ERICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006